be specified in the notification. Enhancement in the rate of royalty in respect of any mineral cannot be made more than once during any period of three years.

(b) The last revision of rates of royalty on minerals other than coal, lignite and sand for stowing was notified on 17.2.92 in respect of all States except West Bengal and Assam. In respect of West Bengal and Assam, the last revision of rates on minerals other than coal, lignite and sand for stowing was notified on 5.5.87.

(c) and (d) The Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 does not prescribe any time schedule for revision of royalty rates.

**Eruption of Volcano in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

5716. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the eruption of Volcano on the Barren Island of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands; and

(b) if so, the details of the assessment made by the scientist on the impact of Volcano activity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Geological Survey of India (GSI) Scientific team reached Barren Island on 24th January, 1995 and undertook an aerial survey on 31st January, 1995. The Volcanic activity at Barren Island is of basaltic, and esitic nature and indicates active conditions of strombolian type. The present activity is of "Island arc" type and indicates an active volcanotectonic regime.

No loss of life and material, except vegetation in the path of the lava front, has been reported. The nearest inhabitated island is about 70 Km. away from the Barren Island. The eruption is, at the moment, of low magnitude and its effect is local.

**गुजरात में इस्पात परियोजनाएं**

5717. **श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम:** क्या इस्पात मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार को गुजरात सरकार द्वारा इस्पात परियोजनाएं स्थापित किए जाने के लिए गैर-सरकारी क्षेत्रों को आशय-पत्र जारी करने के संबंध में कोई प्रताव प्राप्त हुआ है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार की उस पर क्या प्रतिक्रिया है;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने इस पर कोई उचित कार्यवाही की है; और

(घ) गुजरात सरकार ने किन-किन गैर-सरकारी कम्पनियों की अनुशंसा की है?

**इसपात मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सन्तोष मोहन देव):** (क) से (घ) उपलब्ध सूचना के अनुसार इस्पात संयंत्रों की स्थापना के लिए निजी क्षेत्र को आशय-पत्र जारी करने हेतु गुजरात सरकार से कोई प्रस्ताव प्राप्त नहीं हुआ है। औद्योगिक लाईसेंस के लिए संघ सरकार की मंजूरी केवल तभी आवश्यक होती है जब प्रस्तावित परियोजना 1991 की जनगणना के अनुसार 10 लाख से अधिक की जनसंख्या वाले शहर की मानक नगरीय क्षेत्र की परिसीमाओं की परिरेखा से 25 कि०मी० के भीतर अवस्थित होनी हो।

**Letters Written by M.Ps.**

5718. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of letters written by the Members of Parliament to his Ministry during the period from 1st April, 1994 to 31st March, 1995;

(b) what is the number of letters acknowledged out of them;

(c) what is the number of letters in respect of which final replies were sent; and

(d) what is the break up of final letters issued by the Ministry containing positive and negative replies respectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**C.P.P. Project of K.I.O.C. Ltd. Mangalore**

5719. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) by when the Captive Power Plant Project of Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited at Mangalore is likely to be commissioned;

(b) what is the total cost of project and what is the expenditure incurred on the project upto 31st March, 1995;

(c) what is the reasons for the slow progress of this project; and

(d) whether the Budget amount of Rs. 55.02 crores for 1994-95 has been spent during 1994-95, is not the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) In order to meet its power requirements, the Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL) has decided to install a Captive Power Plant (CPP). The first phase of the project (about 19 MW) was taken up at a cost of Rs. 48.33 crores, (revised to Rs. 64.29 crores) against which an expenditure of Rs. 45.89 crores has actually been incurred till 31.3.95. The first phase of the project is scheduled to be commissioned by September 1995.

(c) Due to heavy incessant rains during the period from June, 1994 to october 1994, the civil works were adversely affected.

(d) The outlays provided for the project in 1994-95 could not be fully utilised due to delay in completion of civil works for reasons given in part (c).

**Visakhapatnam Steel Plant**

5720. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased tostate:

(a) whether Visakhapatnam Steel Plant propose to concentrate on exports;

(b) whether modernisation programme is under way to focus on exports; and

(c) the details of the cost of this focused programme for exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Export has been a thrust area since VSP started production. However, an assessment of export is being made and reviewed on a continuous basis in order to take advantage of the shore-based location and to make a significant presence in the export market and also to maintain buoyancy in the domestic market. During the year 1995-96, VSP has planned for export of 500,000 tonnes of iron and steel products valued at Rs. 336 crores approximately.

(b) and (c) Visakhapatnam Steel Plant is a modern plant commissioned in July, 1992 and its modernisation is, therefore, not contemplated in the near future. However, VSP would continue to make its presence in the export market.

**Appointment of Enigneers from J&K by Sail**

5721. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India have selected some engineers from Jammu and Kashmir for appointment in its various undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take some measures to ensure employment of technically qualified unemployed